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Ministry of Advanced Education

$2M FOR INNOVATIVE HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTE AT KUC

VANCOUVER – The Province is investing $2.2 million at Kwantlen University College on research into reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and the use of harmful pesticides in agriculture, announced Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell today.

The money provided through the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund will help fund construction of a 500-square-metre greenhouse built at Kwantlen's Institute for Sustainable Horticulture in Langley to study the potential for geothermal heat as practical energy source. An attached 450-square-metre lab will develop natural pest control methods for both indoor and outdoor use.

"Commercial greenhouses are, not surprisingly, a significant source of greenhouse gases," said Coell. "These new facilities at Kwantlen will promote research that will benefit the environment and advance British Columbia's position as a leader in horticulture research and development."

The Institute for Sustainable Horticulture is an integral part of the Kwantlen's School of Horticulture, B.C.'s largest horticultural training centre. It is a partnership of horticulture groups, formed to take on projects that benefit the horticulture industry and promote the commercial use of integrated pest management. The institute will be Kwantlen's first research facility.

"This funding will provide cutting-edge research facilities right here in Langley," said Mary Polak, MLA for Langley. "Students, the horticulture industry and the environment as a whole will benefit from the training opportunities that will result."

"We are delighted to be able to move forward on the construction of our first dedicated research facility in Langley," said Grant Allan, Kwantlen's associate vice-president of research and scholarship. "It represents yet another important stepping stone in building our presence in the Langley community and in serving the horticultural industry throughout the entire province."

Since 2001, the BC Knowledge Development Fund has provided over $320 million in funding to public post-secondary institutions, teaching hospitals and affiliated non-profit agencies across the province.

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Media contact: Corinna Filion
Communications Manager
250 952-6400
250 812-7977 (cell)

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